colleges seeking permission/renewal of permission for admission of fresh batch of students, Medical Council of India observed that large numbers of doctors were claiming employment as medical teachers in more than one medical college. The teachers who were found indulged in such practice have been penalized by MCI by temporarily erasing their names from Indian Medical Register for three years and publishing their names on MCI website.

(b) MCI has denied involvement of any of its official in the matter.

(c) Review of procedure regarding grant of permission to start medical colleges in private and public sectors is an ongoing process.

Patent for Anti-AIDS medicines

† 1877. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of HIV infected people in the country at present;

(b) whether there has been 32 per cent increase in the cases of HIV/ AIDS and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the people infected with HIV need anti-retroviral therapy;

(d) whether an amount of 3 crore 70 lakh dollars received from the global fund for anti-retroviral therapy was not utilized by NACO; and

(e) whether Government would prevent Jiled Pharmaceuticals from obtaining a patent for Tenefoveer', an important drug for AIDS, at the request of health workers throughout the world?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) According to the Annual Sentinel Surveillance conducted during 2005, an estimated number of 5.2 million persons in the age group 15-49 years are infected with HIV, whereas the estimated number of HIV infection during the year 2004 was 5.1 million.

(c) An HIV infected person needs anti-retroviral therapy during the stage of advance immuno-supression when CD 4 count drops to below 200.

(d) Under the Global Fund Roundll, III & IV, a total of Rs. 12.21 crores were sanctioned during the first phase of the project for procurement of

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

antiretroviral drugs. The drugs amounting to Rs. 21.45 crores have been procured using Global Funds. It is an ongoing project.

(e) No such proposal has been received.

Award on cancer care

1878. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued nation-wide, multi-media advertisements on an award conferred to him by some vague agency in the U.S.A. for work related to cancer;

(b) what are the details of the achievements for which this award was given;

(c) whether Government have applied for this American award;

(d) if so, whether other applications are pending; and

(e) the cost of advertisements incurred in this particular award given to Government or Minister?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) American Cancer Society has conferred the prestigious Luther Terry Award to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India for exemplary leadership in the field of Tobacco Control. The Luther Terry Award is presented triennially in recognition of outstanding worldwide achievement and leadership in the field of Tobacco Control.

(b) As reported by WHO, this award has been presented to Govt. of India for making tremendous achievements in the area of Tobacco which includes enactement of comprehensive Tobacco Control Act 2003, prohibition of advertisement on Tobacco products and display of pictorial health warnings on all Tobacco products.

(c) and (d) Govt. of India has not applied for this award and hence the details of other pending applications are also not available.

(e) Approximately an amount of Rs. 60.00 lakhs has been incurred for publishing the said advertisement